CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE

Digest

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PUBLISHER
HERMANT BLDG.
21 Dundas Square
TORONTO

THIRTY-FOURTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION 1915-49

Vol. 41, No. 32 TORONTO, CANADA December 3rd, 1949

In The Passion Play — What Passion?

WHEN the Nazis first made evident their idealogy, we, the people, quickly labelled these Brown Shirts as the bullet-headed goose-stepping Germans who loved uniforms, guns, and sabres with which to make war on peace-loving nations. We divided these murderers from the German Bavarians for whom we had still a regard.

Bavaria being very close to the Austrian border, we believed that the musical and fun-loving Austria had imparted some of its culture, its sense of humour, its kindliness and bohemianism to the Bavarian Germans.

Had not the villagers of Oberammergau, in Bavaria, been presenting, for over three hundred years, at intervals of every ten years, the Passion Play which reenacted The Story of Christ, and which brought to the village world-fame, thousands of tourists and dollars?

The Oberammergau Passion Play was first produced in 1634, as a demonstration of thankfulness for deliverance from a plague, by the survivors of this plague, who pledged themselves to present the Passion Play perpetually, every ten years, if God would continue to deliver the village from the scourge of the plague.

The Toronto Daily Star of Friday, Nov. 25th has a most enlightening editorial on Oberammergau titled "Reflections on the Bavarian Passion Play" — "with a loan of $300,000 from the American Military Government and aid from other sources, the villagers of Oberammergau in Bavaria have begun preparing the Passion Play, scheduled for the third week in May, 1950."

The last performance of the Passion Play was in 1934.. In 1944, there was World War II, and no Passion Play, for the villagers were in fighting uniforms and "heiling Hitler".

The Star's editorial points out that in the selection of a man to portray Christ there was some doubt concerning the choice of Alois Lang, because Lang had been a member of the Nazi Party, he had served in the Nazi Air Force and, after the War, he had been convicted and fined by a denazification court.

However, Lang has not been excluded from participation in the performance of the Passion Play, for to him has been assigned the reading of the Prologue in 1950. We pause here to bring to your attention that in 1934, this Nazi, Alois Lang, portrayed the character of The Christ in the Passion Play, (*we should more rightfully say betrayed*) and expressed *"thanks to God for having sent Hitler to deliver the world from bolshevism"*.

When in May of 1950, the Passion Play is presented, whom do you think has been selected to portray The Christ? Another Nazi, Anton Preisinger, convicted and fined by a denatzification court for his Nazi activities. He was chosen in preference to Lang because he is younger and more robust for a Passion Play which runs for eight hours in its performance.

There will be thousands and thousands of tourists in Europe in 1950 and conspicuous among these will be Americans and Canadians intent on visiting Rome for The Holy Year; and what would be more interesting than a visit to Oberammergau for the Passion Play?

The villagers, having secured a loan of $300,000 from the American Military Government, could use more American dollars and look at a convicted and fined Nazi portraying the part of Christ.

Someone among our producers might even get the idea of making newsreels, or filming the Passion Play, and it is just as well that they bear in mind the Nazi taint. The only member of the Passion Play Cast, who was known to be anti-Nazi, and who was never active in the Nazi movement is Hans Zwink , who played Judas in 1934.

The London Sunday Pictorial is reported as follows; *"The only proven anti-Nazi in the whole cast is Hans Zwink, who played Judas Iscariot. It is said that the producers considered this a masterly piece of casting, because, in their eyes, Zwink was a political traitor"*.

For the Passion Play of 1950, Zwink has been replaced by a 26-year-old Wehrmacht officer. Bavaria, you probably know, was the birthplace of the Nazi Movement in the 'thirtees.

In 1934, in the guide-book to the play of that year, the prologue stated, *"since the Passion Play, Germany has struck out into new paths and has undergone a striking spiritual revival"*, but the United Press reported, *"Most of the inhabitants of Oberammergau have been strongly pro-Nazi for years"*. The critics in their review of the Passion Play stated that it was more than ever directed to convey the message of anti-semitism.

The London Sunday Pictorial also adds in its comments: *"all honest men and women will regret that Oberammergau has lost sight of its origin. They may also think that a few lines of explanation might be added to the program, 'any resemblance between the actors and the characters they portray is largely coincidental'."*

$300,000 loaned by the American Military Government to a gang of Pro-Nazis whose idealogy has always been Anti-Christ — is this an example of how the Occupational forces in Western Germany are denazifying Germany, rehabilitating the German people, cleansing the leprosy of the Nazi infection? Is this not an example of a blasphemy, an insult to Christianity to have a convicted and fined Nazi portray the Character of Christ?

Have the Occupational Forces lost their sense of values? Are the Nazis converting them to their heresies and inhumanities? It appears that those

(*Continued on Page* 10)

PUBLISHED BY
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED
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"VICTORY!"

"BATTLEGROUND shouts for an Academy Award."
—*N.Y. Daily Mirror*

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—*N.Y. World-Telegram*

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with MARSHALL THOMPSON · JEROME COURTLAND · DON TAYLOR · BRUCE COWLING
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DENISE DARCEL · RICHARD JAECKEL · JIM ARNESS · SCOTTY BECKETT · BRETT KING

Story and Screenplay by ROBERT PIROSH, Associate Producer
Directed by WILLIAM A. WELLMAN · Produced by DORE SCHARY

A METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICT

RAY PRESENTS

BETWEEN the Sadler's Wells Ballet and the Grey Cup Championship Battle, between the Montreal Alouettes and the Calgary Stampeders, not overlooking Toronto Subway tunneling, Toronto is definitely dizzy, and, if not quite dizzy, Torontonians are literally going around in circles.

We had not quite recovered from Danny Kaye's personal appearance whirlwind-tour, when the Calgary Stampeders, last year's Champion winners of the Grey Cup, struck our city. Struck is the word for it.

The Queen City opened wide her arms to give the Westerners a royal welcome. The Alouette contingent with Mayor Houde in their midst, added more Canadienne colour; and, between the two, Toronto's loyalty and warmth was apportioned.

THE visitors, and there were thousands of them, must have concluded that Torontonians were, in truth, bohemians, because the rooters for The Sadler's Wells Ballet and the Big Game, really "let their hair down", and to crown it all, the Queen City wore her crown very lightly; in fact, there was a slight tilt which, on examination, disclosed that the Queen's right eye was continually winking.

12,000 *spectators in the open, plus another* 9,000, *wrapped in parkas, blankets, in furs, with toques pulled down over foreheads and ears, managed to generate enough heat to withstand the effects of Toronto's first snow-storm. Jackie Ross, our own Assistant Editor, who hails from Winnipeg, came into the office last Friday wearing upon her coat lapel a silver metalled ten-gallon hat, and after a few, "Yip-Yipees" started to talk Sadler's Wells Ballet. This leads me to conclude that, between the sublime and the ridiculous, there is but a hair-line border, both ballet and foot-ball realize that the balance of their respective arts lies between the head and de-feat.*

BORIS VOLKOFF, long identified with Ballet in Canada, and his wife, were hosts to a reception for The Ballet on Saturday night, following the Ballet presentation at the Royal Alexandra. There were hundreds of guests, with Arts and Letters well represented, and Ernie Rawley in his best form. I asked Rawley how it felt to return $75,000 in advance ticket money, because the Royal Alexandra could not take care of this demand for seats, being sold out completely for every performance; and I was surprised to see Rawley look so cheerful about it.

Fonteyn, the Ballerina, reminds me very much of Pavlowa, perhaps a little better looking, and looking back into the Mirror of Memory, (thank God that Mirror is still not blurred or cracked) Fonteyn's image, her exquisite art continually merged into my vision of Pavlowa.

MOIRA SHEARER is quite the loveliest person I have seen on stage or screen, with her golden red hair, her large eyes and a whiteness of skin which is startling. But even angels on earth eat, and Moira looked beautiful even while she was eating from a plate balanced in her hand and for which the Volkoffs had provided food for the body beautiful. I do not know why I persist in calling Boris Volkoff, Boris Karloff; I even gave directions to the taximan to take me to Boris Karloff's studio. The two men are so different that even Gracie Allen could not possibly note any similarity between them; Karloff would tower over Volkoff, and the closest Volkoff has ever come to a Frankenstein monster is a ballet of Beauty and The Beast.

Molly Foreman, Selznick-Alliance Montreal Branch manager, was in town because her neice, Norma Findlay, is a student of the Academy of Ballet, affiliated with the Royal Academy of Ballet, London, England, and is dancing in "The Swan" ballet presentation at the Royal Alexandra, with the Sadler's Wells Ballet.

Moira Shearer, in press interviews, expressed herself as not interested in Motion Picture offers, or even in her picture, "Red Shoes". But had the ballet in "Red Shoes" not been the means of creating such a popular appeal for Ballet, and a desire to see Moira Shearer in life, perhaps The Sadler's Wells Ballet would not have attracted such a mass audience. Incidentally, Moira Shearer is a name well on the road to fame, and Motion Pictures has made that name internationally known.

Irrespective of her charm, her art, her beauty and her devotion to ballet, it would have taken this little lady many years of hard work and public performances before she would have attained the fame she has attained through "Red Shoes". Moira, never look a gift horse in the mouth.

I see that Lady Astor has been awarded The Flag-Pole of the Month Award, by the American Film Industry. This is a new award for those who crash the front pages at the expense of Hollywood. As one of the famous Langhorne sisters of Virginia, and the inspiration for the Gibson girl era, Lady Astor was always on the front page for glamour in those glamourous days and later Nancy's remarks as a member of Parliament provided reportorial copy.

It pleases me that Hollywood's backbone has ceased to be a wish-bone, and that it is not as dumb as it looks, or has been.

MAX YOUNGSTEIN, Paramount's publicity chief found time to say, "Hello". He is doing a real job for Paramount, and even Gordon Lightstone's energy, which is akin to the Holstein breed, had to stop to catch his breath as Max Youngstein canopied the presentation of De Mille's "Sampson and Delilah" for a Toronto showing.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Marks were hosts at a dinner-party at their home on Strathearn Road and among the guests were well-known executives of our Trade, all personal friends of The Marks. Young Marks, who is twelve, asked me if I thought the big Football game would hurt attendance at the theatres. One can easily see by this interest where "the land lies".

The species of Showmen does not look as if it is in danger of being exterminated. A few years ago, my own grandson, who was then ten years old, asked his father, Jay L., when he was thinking of retiring. Jay L. who was then approaching his thirty-first birthday, asked his son, "Why?", whereupon the lad replied, "He wishes to take over". Jay L. looked at his son and said, "Considering my years, won't you please give me a chance a little longer?".

Toronto and District

By BILL PRESS

NOW that lower Yonge Street has been stripped of overhanging signs to make way for the Toronto subway project, the proposal has been made to do away with all such advertising projections permanently. Theatre marquees have not been definitely mentioned but it is almost certain that Loew's will break out with a modern canopy in due course, now that the old one has been sheared off.

* * *

Property Master Ben Geldsaler has issued notice that the Variety club rooms are no longer open during the day except on Saturday when the quarters will operate from noon as in the past.

* * *

For more than three weeks. Morris Berlin of the Somerset Theatre, Ottawa, and his wife were staying at the King Edward Hotel in Toronto because of the illness of their 2½-year-old son in the Toronto Sick Children's Hospital following an operation.

Their many friends were wishing speedy recovery for the baby boy. Morris, re-elected a director of the MPTA of Ontario, had been in Toronto practically continuously since the annual meeting Nov. 1.

* * *

Two foreign features, "Passionnelle" and "Torment", gave a special twist at the Radio City Theatre, Toronto, where the new policy is to have a European program on the screen periodically.

* * *

"Lost Boundaries", which gave way after 10 weeks at the Towne Cinema in Toronto to "The Informer", continued for a sixth week at the Community Theatre, Hamilton.

ARBITRATOR SELECTED IN B.C. DISPUTE

Appointment of conciliation officer R. Forgie to assist in negotiations between Odeon Theatres (B.C.) Ltd., and Local 348 of the Projectionists' Society was announced in Victoria by the Labor Relations Board.

The dispute involves 55 projectionists employed by the Odeon chain in Vancouver, New Westminster, the Fraser Valley and Trail, who are seeking pay boosts in line with cost of living increases.

A well-deserved promotion for Al Perley, formerly manager of the Biltmore, Yonge St. From now on Al will be Director of publicity for the entire Biltmore chain.

* * *

It is with regret that we report the death of Tom Boyer who had done such a wonderful job with the Odeon Movie Clubs.

* * *

Mrs. James R. Nairn, wife of the F-P advertising director, is quoted to the effect that she shudders every time she comes across an interview by Louella Parsons which seems to be the only available literature at the hairdressers.

The thought is that it might be a good idea for the public-relations section of the Motion Picture Industry Council of Canada to take care of the hairdressing parlors across the Dominion.

* * *

Jahes Hardiman of the Odeon at London had the Sea Cadets' Bugle Band as the stage attraction for the Saturday Morning Movie Club.

* * *

Visitors in Toronto last week included Ben and Max (familiarly known as Frank and Jesse) Chechick of Vancouver.

* * *

Jerry Solway has joined Astral as a junior salesman.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Cashman are the proud parents of a baby boy to be named Charles Lawrence after his grandfather. Young Charlie is the seventh grandchild for the proud grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Cashman.

NEW JOLSON TO PLAY FAMOUS CIRCUIT AT REGULAR ADMISSIONS

After much baited-breath waiting on the part of the industry and movie patrons the terms on "Jolson Sings Again" have finally been settled between Columbia and Famous Players. The picture will play the entire Famous Circuit *at regular prices.*

The Canadian Moving Picture Digest

Entered as Second Class Matter

RAY LEWIS
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JACKIE ROSS
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Address all mail to the Publisher
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY, LIMITED
21 Dundas Square - Toronto
Telephone: WAverley 8696
Cable: Raydigest
Established 1915. Publication weekly.

Subscription: $5.00 yearly

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The "What's Your Beef" program on the radio network on Nov. 23 had little in the way of "beefs" for a change because the artists included Morris Stein and Jules Wolfe of Famous Players and Stan Helleur of the Toronto Telegram. They were putting in nice plugs for Variety Village, main project of the Toronto Tent.

* * *

A breath of loveliness hit Toronto's film row in the visit of Miss Peggy Francis, manager of Dick Main's Capitol Theatre at Listowel. No wonder the Capitol is doing nicely.

* * *

The W. C. Fields revivals re-acted well as the opening program for the Astor Theatre at 651 Yonge Street, Toronto. The double was held for a second week.

Incidentally, a class policy has been adopted for the Kent Theatre, once known as the Beverly and recently taken over by Curley Posen, at 1488 Yonge Street where "The Lost One" was used to start the new plan.

* * *

The Davroy vaudeville unit had a three-day engagement at Howard Elliott's Fairlawn Theatre way up at 3320 Yonge Street in North Toronto.

GLEBE CHANGES POLICY

Odeon Theatres (Canada) Limited has announced a Toronto Hyland policy for the neighborhood Glebe in Ottawa which will become effective when the theatre entrance is remodelled. The Glebe will cater to adult audiences with mature British features.

THINKING OF BUILDING A NEW THEATRE?

A Quonset Theatre Building May Be Just What You Are Looking For

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SOUND EQUIPMENT
The Golden Voice of the Silver Screen

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ELgin 6209

Plan To Make Br. Pix Here

After almost 10 years of research, British motion picture producers are planning within the next few weeks to go into production in Canada, it was announced last week.

Ever since the producer-director team of Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger came to this country in 1941 to make 49th Parallel, the two men, who make films under the trade name of The Archers, have been evolving a scheme to make more movies here.

Powell and Pressburger made two trips across Canada, from Vancouver to Halifax, the first occupying six months, when they were doing the story of 49th Parallel, and again when they made the picture.

Accompanying them was David Rawnsley, who headed a group which accompanied the Archers to study production problems peculiar to Canada, and to report their findings to British movie magnate J. Arthur Rank.

It is largely on the basis of Rawnsley's findings that the new venture is being undertaken.

Scripts for the first three films to be made in Canada have already been selected, the first tentatively titled The Admiral's Cabin Boy. These, and any other movies made here, will employ a technique known as the independent frame process, a method new to film production.

"It wiuld be useless for technicians to make standard, studio-type films here and build barn-like structures such as Denham studios. There are more studios in Mexico than any one could ever use, and British producers are unable to take advantage of existing studio space over there," an informed source.

"It follows, therefore, that unless a new technique is employed, such as the one planned, with specialized lighting, easily transportable equipment and smaller stage space, British producers could no more be successful in Canada than they were in Britain before they gave up trying to copy Hollywood styles."

In London, Pressburger said that the new industry would mean many jobs for skilled men. Top executives in Britain, hamstrung by restrictions there, would move to Canada, and there might be a steady exodus from the industry there.

One thing producers have had to overcome is the non-existence of skilled technicians in Canada. It was necessary to overcome this by finding new methods, as success could not be expected from an amateur-like group learning "how to do it" as they went along.

Such studio space as is needed will be located on sites yet to be chosen, but it is believed at least one unit will be located within 30 miles of Toronto, possibly near Oshawa.

Location spots and equipment will be owned by "substantial Toronto capitalists," according to F. K. Lyle, director of trade and industry branch of the Ontario Planning and Development Department.

Canadian talent of all types is to be developed. Two key British film men now in Toronto have talked to actors, writers, musicians, dancers and announcers, with a view to using the abilities of Canadians wherever possible.

One reason for the interest in Canadian actors is "a neutral accent" which would make the films more acceptable in the United States.

Actor Raymond Massey and his brother Vincent, former high commissioner to London, are also interested in the program, though more from the prestige standpoint of Canada having its own movie industry than from any financial angle.

It is expected that either Powell or Pressburger, or possibly both, will arrive here about Dec. 10. Production of the first film is expected to begin shortly afterward.

CANADIAN FILM HAS MONTREAL PREMIERE

The Canadian Film Industry moved a step closer to its coming of age Friday evening when Quebec Productions presented "Le Cure de Village" at the St. Denis Theatre. For Canadians who still think of th Canadian Film Industry as of an adolescent in knee-pants, this picture will hold some pleasant surprises. It is a thoroughly professional production.

The script by Robert Choquette as well as the musical score by Morris C. Davis are improvements over previous films. Skillful casting and an over-all direction which makes the best use of story and actors result in a realistic and charming portrayal of life in a small Quebec village.

Sets by Jacques Pelletier are true to rural Quebec. No attempt is made to glamorize the surroundings and the results are refreshing. If criticism is offered, it should not be so much of this film, which is undoubtedly the best of any Canadian films thus far, but rather in anticipation of the next Canadian film.

Calgary Projectionists Win 35% Wage Increase

Projectionists in five Calgary motion picture theatres were awarded a 35 per cent increase in hourly wages as a result of an arbitration board award. Announcement of the award was made by the provincial department of industries and labor.

The board also repealed a previous regulation that two projectionists are to be employed in each theatre.

Staggering of hours of work will absorb all projectionists presently employed and the wage increase will compensate for a reduction in working hours of each, department officials said.

At present projectionists are earning between $40 and $60 a week.

K. M. Leach, president of the Alberta Theatre Operators' Association, said that eight Calgary theatres will accept an arbitration award which recommended that the motion picture projectionists employed in the theatres be granted a 35-per-cent wage increase.

Mr. Leach said the operators were "in full agreement" with the board's decision which included approval of a recent government order changing the number of projectionists working in theatres from two per shift to one. The union has not yet announced whether it will accept or reject the award.

Warners To Remake "Jazz Singer"

"The Jazz Singer", Warner Bros. history-making film which ushered in the golden age of talking pictures has been scheduled for immediate production by Jack L. Warner.

CBC SEEKS TV STUDIO IN MONTREAL

CBC has made an offer to purchase the Cote des Neiges Road studio of Renaissance Films for production of television films but price difference is delaying the deal.

The company, Renaissance Films Distribution Inc. has a one-fourth interest in Les Productions Renaissance Inc. which recently finished shooting its first feature film, "Les Gros Bill" at the studios and this week announced that shooting on a second production would begin at the end of this month.

Renaissance Films Distribution built the studios. Les Productions Renaissance, formed out of a reorganization of the original Renaissance company, whose production plans did not materialize, rents the studio facilities.

WILCOX-NEAGLE TO VISIT CANADA

Anna Neagle and her producer director husband, Herbert Wilcox, had planned to be in Canada for the opening of their film "Spring In Park Lane", but according to a cable received this week by Oscar Hanson, their Canadian representative, they are now postponing their trip until the completion of their next film, "Odette."

There hasn't been anything like this... Since CLEOPATRA invented the KISS!

and she had the elements...

He had the formula

-and when they put them together they got

ZAZZLE!*

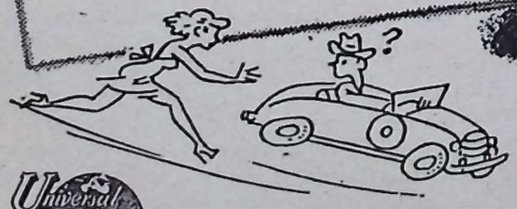
*IT STARTS WHERE SEX APPEAL STOPS!

UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL presents

Robert CUMMINGS Ann BLYTH

"FREE FOR ALL"

IT'S FUN FOR EVERYBODY



with Percy KILBRIDE

RAY COLLINS · MIKHAIL RASUMNY · DONALD WOODS

Screenplay by ROBERT BUCKNER • From a Story by Herbert Clyde Lewis • Directed by CHARLES T BARTON • Produced by ROBERT BUCKNER

DATE IT NOW!

Empire-Universal Films Ltd.

PLAY IT NOW!

TRADE HEADLINES

"Superior Salesmanship" to be Highlight U.A. Sales Convention Blackstone Hotel, Chicago, September 2. Canadian District Managers Will Attend U.S. National Meet.

•

Pressburgher and Powell will finish "Gone To Earth" Starring Jennifer Jones for David Selznick Prior to Preparations To Produce in Canada.

•

Andy W. Smith, Jr., Vice-President, 20th Century-Fox and General Sales Manager, Announces Greatest Domestic Distribution Gross Ever Achieved for This Company.

•

Variety Tent No. 11, Washington, Presents Al Jolson with "Personality of the Year" Plaque — Presentation Made by Under-Secretary Defense Steve Early.

•

Warner Bros. Publicity and Advertising Representatives Covering 9 Zones Meet to Discuss "Hasty Heart" Campaign With Harry Kalmine and Mort Blumenstock at Home Office, N.Y.

•

Lady Astor Receives "Flag-Pole of the Month Award" for Crashing Newspages at Expense of Hollywood.

•

Hamilton Theatre Managers Assn. Benefit Show at Palace, Sunday, Nets Variety Village $3,500.

•

Paramount's "The Heiress" in 5th Week Carthay Circle — Los Angeles.

•

Lena Horne — MGM Star — at Brant Inn, Ontario, Dec. 1st.

•

Sam Katz Goes to Chicago to Form Financing Company For Independents.

•

Darryl Zanuck Resigns From 20th Century-Fox Board.

•

Released British Sterling Sells in New York for $2.25 to the Pound — Can Only be Used to Buy or Produce British Films in U.K.

•

Harold Wilson, British Board of Trade President, Gives No Hope for Increase of $17 Million Annual Remittance Rate From Film Earnings in U.K.

•

Curly Posen Promotes Kent Theatre, Yonge St., Toronto, as Foreign Language House — Other Theatre, King, College St., Operating Foreign Policy Successfully. Columbia's "The Lost One" ("Traviata") Opens the Kent's Foreign Picture Policy.

•

"The Magic Voice" Starring Beniamino Gigli Plays King Theatre Three Weeks English Language.

•

The Stampeders Hit Toronto and the Whoopee Crowd of Grey Cup Champions Bring Harry Cohen, Frank Kershaw, from West as Toronto Guests.

•

Sask. Exhibs. Re-Elect George Miller as President; Jack Watson, Sec.-Treas.; W. E. Wintertow, V-P.

•

Sask. Exhibs. Ratify CMPIC Resolutions.

•

Bill "Bojangles" Robinson Dies After a Lifetime In Showbusiness.

Screen Reviews

JACKIE ROSS

"DILLINGER" (Monogram) with Lawrence Tierney, Edmund Lowe and Ann Jeffreys.

With very few frills and unnecessary beating around the bush, "Dillinger" tells the story of the former Public Enemy No. 1, John Dillinger, the terror of the '30's, from his first prison break to his eventual demise outside a Chicago theatre.

Every once in a while, it's a welcome change to see a film come out of Hollywood, dealing with a social problem, that is quite frankly unsociological. In "Dillinger", there is no attempt whatsoever to account for criminal tendencies in terms of environment or other contributory factors. We are simply presented with a chronological account of Dillinger's activities which is quite sufficient material for a good action picture.

Played by Lawrence Tierney, Dillinger is a cold-blooded, revengeful, disloyal and generally objectionable type whose success in his chosen profession is, nevertheless, quite believable and whose tawdry death is definitely deserved. The minute descriptions of bank-robbing plans and jail breaks are fascinating as are also the underlying jealousies and tensions of an underworld gang.

Much of the credibility of the picture is due to the adequacy of the minor players in the cast, particularly Edmond Lowe as the 'more brains, less guns'-type of criminal who is eventually superceded in his leadership of the gang by Dillinger.

Hard-hitting and completely unpretentious, "Dillinger", although hardly recommendable as 'general family entertainment' is nevertheless a slick and fast-moving piece of work which sticks to the story it has to tell and no detours. For his handling of the pace, credit is due to Max Mosseck, the director, with an assist to Philip Yordan (who wrote "Anna Lucasta") for a good, tight script.

"THE BIG WHEEL" (United Artists) with Mickey Rooney, Thomas Mitchell, Spring Byington and Michael O'Shea.

"The Big Wheel" is Jack Dempsey's maiden voyage into the field of film production in collaboration with Sam Steifel and Harry B. Popkin. This fact stands out in the picture because of the unmistakable Dempsey touch in the way the story is handled.

"The Big Wheel" is the story of automobile racing, of a boy who's life's desire is to win the big race at Indianapolis and to carry on the tradition of his racing father who met his death at the same track. Parallel to this, runs the romance between his mother (Spring Byington) and an old friend of the family (Thomas Mitchell).

As the kid, Mickey Rooney, after several unfortunate miscastings, has recaptured the old charm of Andy Hardy to which he has added a certain amount of maturity which makes his performance outstanding. Running along like The Perils of Pauline, the plot causes him to crash twice, be barred from racing, and finally drive to the finish with a burning gasoline tank all of which Rooney successfully hurdles to give the picture a happy ending.

Thomas Mitchell (who is, incidentally, all set to take over the Lee J. Cobb role in "Death of a Salesman" on Broadway) is his usual competent self as the fourth angle of the romantic rectangle and Spring Byington turns in an excellent performance as the boy's mother, torn between loyalty to him and to her own life.

However, the outstanding thing about the picture is the footage taken at the Indianapolis Speedway which should have the customers out of their seats and screaming by the end of the race. It's been a long time since we had a picture about automobile racing and not until you've seen "The Big Wheel" do you realize what a terrific action background it is.

THE STARS DECIDED TO MAKE-UP THE MAKE-UP MAN

On the SAINTS AND SINNERS set, Dublin's famous Abbey Players along with the blonde British menace, Christine Norden, had themselves an hilarious time shooting that merry rumpus in a modern Irish village. S. & S. is a current New York laugh hit, long-run. PHOTO shows stars making-up the make-up man as his own grandmother.

London Films Presents SAINTS AND SINNERS, (Comedy), stars Kieron Moore, Christine Norden with Dublin's Abbey Players, Sheila Manahan, Michael Dolan, Maire O'Neill, Tom Dillon, Pam Arliss, Noel Purcell, Tony Quinn. A Leslie Arliss Production. Eagle-Lion Release.

THIS IS A VINTAGE YEAR FOR BRITISH COMEDY

BOOK IT NOW FROM EAGLE-LION

DRIVE-INS IN THE NEWS

ONLY ONE OZONER FOR CHILLIWACK

Two applications for a license to operate a drive-in theatre in the township presented the Chilliwack council with something of a problem.

First application was that of Ald. John McIntosh, Chilliwack, whose partner in the enterprise it was later revealed, is L. Tisman, Cheam.

It was stated that the firm proposes to establish an out-door theatre on the former Dr. R. McCaffrey farm on Young road south, with entrance from Brooks avenue. Accommodation is planned for 400 cars, with provision for any increase which business may warrant

Theatre ground would be surrounded by an aluminum fence, and there would be no disturbance of the peace in the neighborhood, as each car would be provided with a speaker with controls. Amount invested, it was stated by Ald. McIntosh, would run between $40,00 and $60,000.

Accommodation for 500 cars at a site on Trans-Canada Highway south, near Evans road intersection, was the proposal of Spokesmen for Theatre Agencies (B.C.) Ltd., operators of a new drive-in theatre on Lougheed Highway, in Burnaby. Anticipated investment: $35,000.

Theatre Agencies spokesmen, H. Phillot, contended it was not for council to decide whether there was room for one or more such theatres in this district, when the issue was raised by Reeve Richardson.

Council however decided, in effect, that one such theatre was sufficient for the present, by granting a license to the Chilliwack firm and refusing the application of Theatre Agencies Ltd. (According to the Municipal Act a council may, by unanimous vote, refuse a trade licence to a person or firm).

It has since been learned that a third drive-in theatre firm, Cozart & Boyd, has been in the district with a view to selecting a site. This firm operates a drive-in theatre near Kelowna.

NFB

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CANADA CARRIES ON

RELEASE FOR

NOVEMBER

"Ballet Festival"

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NATIONAL FILM BOARD PRODUCTION

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COLUMBIA PICTURES

SIMCOE THEATREMEN FIGHT DRIVE-IN

Appearing at the November meeting of Town Council on Monday night on behalf of the owners of three local theatres, J. W. Sheppard voiced vigorous objection to the erection of a drive-in theatre on No. 3 Highway within the municipality of Simcoe, Ont.

Pointing out that they passed a resolution at a previous meeting requesting the Department of Highways to grant a license for erection of the theatre, he requested council to inform the department of the objection now being raised. The matter was discussed at some length in committee of the whole and it was decided to take no further action.

Mr. Sheppard informed council that he was appearing on behalf of Theatre Holding Corporation, owners of the Strand Theatre, and Robert Hambleton, owner of the Norfolk and Capitol Theatres, as well as a number of ratepayers whose names he was not at liberty to reveal.

"I have been asked to voice objection to the granting of a license for such a project," said Mr. Sheppard. *"I feel that council was not advised of the serious objection to it."*

He claimed that Simcoe was not large enough to maintain four theatres, that it would place an increased burden on local police and that no urban municipality in the United States or Canada had granted a license to erect such a theatre within limits of the municipality. He also pointed out that if the theatre were allowed to operate after midnight, there would be a youth problem. Charging that adjacent properties would depreciate in value, Mr. Sheppard also claimed that it would be a nuisance from the theatre as well as noise from the cars leaving late at night.

"This is applicable not only to Simcoe but to any other municipality," he stated. *"It is not in the safety interests of the citizens to grant such a license and if the ratepayers knew all the facts they would demand that council's approval be rescinded."*

WORDS OF WISDOM

— ON DRIVE-INS —

Uttered by a Circut Head:

DON'T FIGHT 'EM

BUILD 'EM!

OCHS OUT OF STRATFORD

Ald. A. D. Simpson, chairman of the properties, purchases, and insurance committee of Stratford City Council, announced at the committee's regular meeting Tuesday night that he received a telegram Tuesday from K. A. Jones, Peterborough, representing the Ochs Management Company, Cleveland, Ohio, requesting withdrawal of an offer to buy city land at Huron St. and Forman Ave. for the purpose of constructing a drive-in theatre. Subsequent to the original offer to purchase, which caused a split among council members when it was presented to them at special meetings Nov. 3 and Nov. 8, another concern has begun construction of a drive-in theatre at Downie St. and con. 3, South Easthope, outside the city limits.

EDMONTON D-I ON THE CARPET

A second blast is brewing for Edmonton's second drive-in theatre, now under construction on 109 street, just south of the city limits.

Some weeks ago it weathered a lengthy broadside from Pleasantview Community League, which told city council the theatre's operation offers a serious threat of desecration to the cemetery just north of the site, inside city limits.

While the community league admitted the city has no direct jurisdiction over the project, since land had already been bought from Strathcona municipality, it asked for the city's moral support in having the locality changed.

Council agreed to refer the matter to the town planning commission, and the commission presented its report to council.

The report says the site should be studied further by both city and municipal district, because if Calgary highway is re-routed through the area, it would be difficult to expropriate land occupied by the theatre.

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We now have a very large stock of excellent reconditioned (as new) Theatre Chairs. Quantities up to 1200 of a kind. Immediate delivery.

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PASSION PLAY

(*Continued from Page* 1)

who are being reformed are much more clever at propaganda than their so-called Master-benefactors.

Would not the $300,000 be far better spent in gathering up the victims, the little children who have been orphaned, tortured in mind and body by these players of the Passion Play, who have never learned the meaning of *"Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven"*.

During the Master-Mind and Master-Race's revolting era, we heard unbelievable and incredible stories, which unfortunately were proven to be true. Is this tale of Oberammergau not equally incredible and revoltingly fantastic?

We are hoping that the mention of "other sources" in respect to the financing of the 1950 Passion Play does not refer to any motion picture interests, despite the London Sunday Pictorial's subtle reference, *"any resemblance between the actors and characters they portray is largely coincidental"*.

Hollywood is such an impulsive, enthusiastic sucker that anything might be possible, particularly since quite a few of our motion picture companies are eagerly seeking to re-establish film trade relations with Germany.

Years ago, The Digest warned our Film Industry not to trust in the promises of the Nazis, to capitalize on German film investments which had been made and to pull up stakes. But the Nazis promised immunity to these Foreign film interests, and what happened we know. If our Industry wishes to trade with Germany there are Ways and Means for such trading, without establishing permanent investments in that country which is still honey-combed with a desire for revenge, which still reveals a martyr-complex.

Look back over the past twenty-five years, the history of two World Wars, the stinking bodies of the living in the Concentration camps, and the stinking bodies of millions of dead, which even the earth refused to cover up.

With pro-Nazis presenting the Passion Play, we are provoked to inquire What Passion? Surely with their idealogy, not The Passion for the Gospel of Love, of Brotherhood, a dedication to the service of mankind, a dedication to the Fatherhood of God with no distinction among His Children of race, creed or colour!

Pro-Nazis garbed in a religious cloak and bearded to disguise the venomous face of anti-semitism — how can such maskers fool us, unless we are more deluded than they are, and the quotation, "what fools we mortals be" is still applicable to us all.

—THE EDITOR.

The new Roxy Theatre at DEER LAKE, NEWFOUNDLAND, was officially opened last month.

The York Theatre, VICTORIA which was closed last February, reopened this month. The 750-seater was acquired by 3 Victoria men, Thomas Matheson is managing director. The other partners are William Henson, local contractor, and Herbert Hampton, former theatre manager, who will be resident manager of the York. Theatre was the former Pantage Circuit house and has had a hectic career since that time with many owners. It is situated in the Oriental section of the Capitol City of B.C.

Gaumont-Kalee has installed a pair of their new Universal Arc Lamps and Rectifiers, in Mr. Toffey's Cloverdale theatre, CLOVERDALE, B.C.

TRANSCONA, MAN., council has appointed a sub-committee to investigate a plan to build a theatre at the corner of Oxford Street and Victoria avenue. . . . Councillors D. Evans and W. Dzyndra and building inspector A. Taylor will report on the plan at council's next meeting. If permission to build is given work will start on theatre early next year.

New drive-in theatres will be built in VICTORIA and NANAIMO by Famous Players Canadian Corporation Ltd. . . . L. I. Berg, head of the chain's western division, announced the building program and said construction would start soon. . . Drive-ins will also be built by Famous Players in VANCOUVER and CHILLIWACK.

Plans have been laid for a $50,000 drive-in theatre to open by April of next year in VERNON, B.C. . . . The theatre will be built within city limits on the property of W. H. Rice, and will accommodate 300 cars with in-car speakers. There will be seating space as well . . . Approximately nine acres of land will be taken over, with owners Jim Hackman and Mike Popowich assuming cost of a road into the property.

Ian G. Clark, agent for Inland Industries Ltd., a company comprised of Kamloops businessmen, has announced plans for the construction of a new drive-in theatre on a six-acre site in NORTH KAMLOOPS . . . It is reported that erection of the mammoth screen, project booth, snack-bar and other buildings will be commenced without undue delay in an effort to have the theatre open for business early in the spring as weather conditions permit.

Vancouver News

By JACK DROY

VANCOUVER citizens may have a chance in December to say whether they want Sunday entertainment or not. Ald. Proctor gave City Council notice of motion asking a plebiscite be held at the same time as the civic elections which would ask the Dominion Government to amend the Lord's Day act to legalize picture shows, professional sports and legitimate theatre performances on Sundays. But he said he anticipates strong opposition from church groups. Amusement business is neutral on the question being about 50 per cent for and against the question.

* * *

Two drive-in theatres have closed for the season; The Lougheed at Vancouver and the Pines drive-in at Penticton. The Cascades, Vancouver, and the Boyd at Kelowna are still operating but may close any day now for British Columbia's rainy season is here.

* * *

A special preview was held at the Capitol Theatre of MGM "That Forsyte Woman". All proceeds were in aid of The March of Dimes. 1600 patrons attended at $2.00 a head. The drive is sponsored by the Vancouver Sun — objective this year is $60,000.

* * *

Touring stage companies are picking many talented youngsters from Vancouver. Two Joined "High Button Shoes"; two are with "Oklahoma" and four are with Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo.

* * *

Three former film exchange managers, the Plottel brothers, have leased the former T. Eaton Co. premises on Vancouver's main street which will be Tracey's Apparel Shop Ltd. When renovations are completed, it will be one of the most modern fashion centres in western Canada. The Plottel boys are Benny, Leslie and Lennie.

* * *

Another off week in Vancouver downtowners — too much outside competition. Pictures on view were "The Doctor and the Girl" Capitol, "Pinky" Strand, "Home of the Brave" Vogue, "Chicago Deadline" Orpheum, "Easy Living", Plaza and Hastings. Best was "Pinky" Strand.

* * *

H. J. Brissette, promoter of the White City Amusement Company near New Westminster, B.C. which was to include a large moving picture theatre, was committed for trial on charges of false pretences. There are sixteen charges against Brisette.

THOSE 20th LINES RUN ON AND ON!

7th Week N. Y., 6th Week Boston, 4th Week L. A., Seattle!

Pinky

Salute the Boxoffice Blue Ribbon Picture for October!

I WAS A MALE WAR BRIDE

M. P. Herald Boxoffice Champion for September & October!

Come TO THE STABLE

"Mother Wore Tights" Business in Portland & St. Paul!

Your Thanksgiving Date!

OH, YOU BEAUTIFUL DOLL

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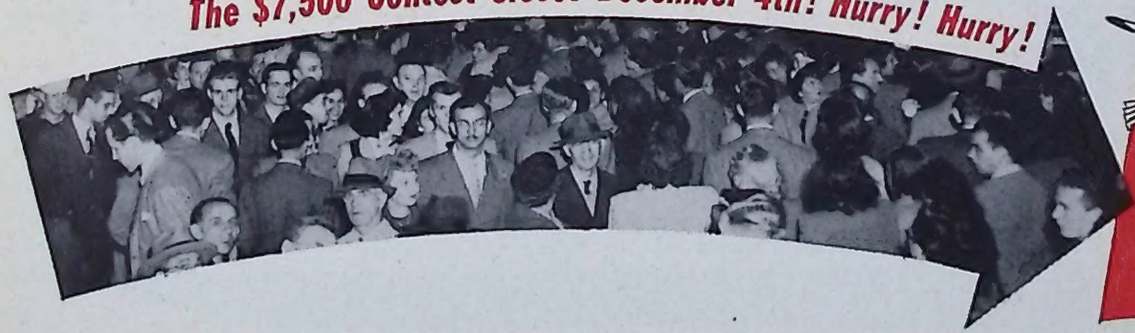
The $7,500 Contest Closes December 4th! Hurry! Hurry!



FATHER WAS A FULLBACK

There's No Business Like 20th Business!

CENTURY-FOX

« Capital Story »

By WILL McLAUGHLIN

THE Merchant's Exhibition, staged in the vast lobby, foyer and up the staircase to the mezzanine floor of Famous Player's Capitol Theatre for one week, closed with another co-operative advertising section in the Evening Journal. Sponsored by Ray Tubman, manager of the Capitol, local merchants and newspaper, the attractively arranged exhibits — and the current show — were viewed by thousands of people throughout the six days. An added attraction was the preview of the shape of things to come in the entertainment world provided by Famous Players mobile television unit stationed near the theatre to transmit outdoir scenes to screens located in th Capitol's foyer. A second cameraman inside the theatre photographed patrons, and those milling about the receivers were surprised to find their own images on the screen.

* * *

Barney Simmonds, formerly at the Rideau Theatre as manager, is now assisting manager Ernie Warren in operating 20th Century Theatres' dual houses, the Elgin and the Little Elgin. While both auditoriums accommodate the crowds attending the more important releases, the Little Elgin becomes a separate unit when foreign-language films and productions of special artistic appeal are presented at the smaller-seated theatre.

* * *

Charlie Chaplin, general manager for United Artists in Canada, was in Ottawa over the week-end to attend a private screening of "Mrs. Mike" at the Elgin Theatre. Bert H. Wilkes, director of publicity for United Artists, also came down from Toronto to assist manager Ernie Warren in arranging the preview, which was attended by a group of Ottawa relatives of the lady who wrote the story of her experiences as the wife of a Royal Canadian "Mountie" in the Northwest Territories.

Donn B. Stapleton, managing-director of the Centre Amusement Company, has returned to Ottawa from Toronto where he combined show business with pleasure by attending the Grey Cup football classic at Varsity Stadium. The well-known theatre operator was accompanied by Frank Gallop, resident manager of the Centre Theatre.

* * *

Plans are being drawn up and a committee appointed to arrange details of the annual Christmas - New Years' party for local and district theatre managers and their friends. This affair, which was inaugurated several years ago by members of the Ontario Motion Picture Theatres Association, Eastern division has become one of the most anticipated events of the Winter holiday season.

Darryl F. Zanuck's "Pinky" got away to a big opening day at the Capitol Theatre. Judging by favorable press reviews and receptive audience reaction following the premiere, it would appear that this 20th Century-Fox release will set up a new attendance record fo rthe pre-Christmas season at the Capitol.

* * *

The stage and screen are in direct opposition to each other this week, with both mediums of artistic expression cashing in on the unusual situation. The Canadian Repertory Theatre is currently presenting George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion" at the LaSalle Academy Playhouse, while the Centre Theatre is showing the British-made screen version of Shaw's comedy with the late Leslie Howard in the role of Professor Henry Higgins.

ROUYN THEATRES GUILTY IN JUVENILE CASE

About 450 children under 16 years of age were illegally attending movies in Rouyn Saturday when provincial police raided local theatres, police said Monday.

None of the owners there will be prosecuted, but police said they were warned against allowing children into their theatre.

The raids followed statements in court by three Rouyn juveniles sentenced to prison terms for theft, who told Magistrate Camille Brealieu they were influenced by cops-and-robbers movies and crime comics.

Trans-Canada Showings

Use This Information As Your Guide On Release Dates

TORONTO

DOWNTOWN
"Thieves' Highway" (20th-Fox), and "Tanks A Million" (SARO'.

EGLINTON-UNIVERSITY
"Spring in Park Lane" (EL), with Anna Neagle and Michael Wilding.

IMPERIAL
"The Inspector-General" (WB), in Technicolor with Danny Kaye and Barbara Bates.

LOEW'S
"That Forsyte Woman" (MGM), with Errol Flynn and Greer Garson.

ODEON-CARLTON
Second Week. "Tokyo Joe" (Col.), with Humphrey Bogart and Florence Marly.

INTERNATIONAL CINEMA
Second Week. "Beauty and the Beast" (E-U).

SHEA'S-NORTOWN-CAPITAL
Second Week. "Oh, You Beautiful Doll" (20th-Fox), in Technicolor with June Haver and Mark Stevens.

TOWNE CINEMA
"The Informer" (RKO), with Victor McLaglen and Heather Angel.

UPTOWN
"Scene of the Crime" (MGM), and "Border Incident" (MGM).

MONTREAL

CAPITOL
Second Week. "Chicago Deadline" (Para.) with Alan Ladd and June Havoc.

IMPERIAL
Second Week. "Lost Boundaries" (Astral), and "The Green Promise" (RKO).

LOEW'S
"Under Capricorn" (WB), in Technicolor with Ingrid Bergman and Joseph Cotten.

ORPHEUM
Second Week. "Tarzan Triumphs" (RKO), and "Tarzan's Desert Mystery" (RKO).

PALACE
"That Midnight Kiss" (MGM), in Technicolor with Kathryn Grayson and Jose Iturbi.

PRINCESS
"Scene of the Crime" (MGM), with Van Johnson and Gloria DeHaven.

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL
"Mr. Soft Touch" (Col.), with Glenn Ford and Evelyn Keyes.

PARAMOUNT
"The Fountainhead" (WB), with Gary Cooper and Patricia Neal.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL
"Pinky" (20th-Fox), with Jeanne Crain and William Lundigan.

GAIETY
"The Secret Garden" (MGM), with Margaret O'Brien and Herbert Marshall.

LYCEUM
"Johnny Allegro" (Col.), with George Raft and Nina Foch.

MET
"Any Number Can Play" (MGM), with Clark Gable and Alexis Smith.

ODEON
"Yes Sir, That's My Baby" (Univ.), in Technicolor with Donald O'Connor and Gloria DeHaven.

VALOUR
"Blue Lagoon" (Univ.), with Jeanne Simmons and Donald Houston.

CALGARY

CAPITOL
"Roseanna McCoy" (RKO), with Farley Granger and Joan Evans.

PALACE
"Father Was a Fullback" (20th-Fox), with Fred MacMurray and Maureen O'Hara.

GRAND
"Gone With The Wind" (MGM), in Technicolor with Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh.

STRAND
"Sand" (20th-Fox), in Technicolor with Mark Stevens and Coleen Gray.

VANCOUVER

CAPITOL
"The Doctor and the Girl" (MGM), with Glenn Ford and Gloria DeHaven.

PLAZA-HASTINGS
"Easy Living" (RKO), with Victor Mature and Lucille Ball.

PARADISE
"Brimstone" (Rep.), and "Rose of the Yukon".

STRAND
"Pinky" (20th-Fox), with Jeanne Crain and William Lundigan.

VOGUE
Second Week. "Home of the Brave" (UA), with Douglas Dick and Steve Brodie.

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Minneapolis	Pantages	Huntington, W. Va.	Palace
Philadelphia	Aldine	New Haven	College
St. Paul	Orpheum	Boston	Orpheum-State
Cincinnati	Capitol	Los Angeles	Hill St. & Pantages
Milwaukee	Strand	Indianapolis	Loew's Palace
Kansas City	Midland	Seattle	Liberty
Washington	Metropolitan	Louisville	State
Detroit	Madison	New Orleans	Orpheum
Portland, Ore	Mayfair	Cleveland	Esquire
		San Francisco	United Artists

Extended runs in every one of the above situations

'Jolson' Wow in L.A. —Los Angeles

'Jolson' Sockeroo —Indianapolis

'Jolson' smashing all records —Detroit

'Jolson' wham —Philadelphia

'Jolson' Colossal ...Sensational —Washington

'Jolson' (11th week) Sock —New York

'Jolson' Giant —Buffalo

'Jolson' Loudest Noise in Hub —Boston

'Jolson' holding very strong —Chicago (8th week)

'Jolson' town's tallest take in months. —Cincinnati (3rd week)

Opening this week and soon to play:

Albany	Grand	Gloucester	Strand
Youngstown	Palace	Lincoln	State
Omaha	State, Dundee	Dayton	Colonial
Denver	Denver-Webber, Esquire-Aladdin	Champaign	Virginia
Providence	Metropolitan	Cedar Rapids	Iowa
Toledo	Rivoli	Dubuque	Orpheum
Norfolk	Newport, Colley	Marshalltown	Orpheum
Portsmouth, Va.	Commodore, Gates	Waterloo	Orpheum
St. Louis	St. Louis	Sioux City	Orpheum
Holyoke	Suffolk	Davenport	Orpheum
Haverhill	Strand	Rochester	Rochester
Northampton	Academy	Syracuse	State
Pittsfield	Union Square	Bridgeport	Poli
Burlington, Vt.	Strong	Nashville	Vendome
Memphis	Malco	Worcester	Poli
Stamford	Palace	Columbus	World
Portland, Me.	Empire	Miami	Miami, Lincoln, Miracle, Cameo
Hartford	E. M. Loew	Grand Rapids	Regent
Dover	Uptown	Pittsburgh	J. P. Harris
Atlanta	Rialto	Warren, O.	Harris
Lewiston	Miller	Newark, O.	New Arcade
Parkersburg	Hiehle	San Diego	Spreckels, Tower
Utica	Olympic	Phoenix	Palms
Lowell	Keith	Tucson	Paramount
Billings	Fox		
Butte	Montana		
Great Falls	Rainbow		
Missoula	Wilma		
Ogden	Egyptian		
Pocatello	Chief		
Helena	Marlow		
Council Bluffs	Broadway		
Fresno	Warner		
Huntington Park	Warner		
Santa Barbara	Warner		
San Pedro	Warner		
San Bernardino	Ritz		
Beverly Hills	Warner		
Akron	Palace		
Tulsa	Rialto		
Bethlehem	Boyd		
Easton	Boyd		
Fitchburg	Saxon		
Laramie	Fox		
Boulder	Boulder		
Cheyenne	Lincoln		
Las Vegas	Surf		
Harrisburg	Colonial		
Reading	Embassy		
Johnstown	Embassy		
Bradford, Pa.	New Bradford		
Ithaca	Strand		

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